

MEMORANDUM TO: C/FE

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FROM :

[redacted]

SUBJECT : Long-Range Area Training Program

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1. The attached materials offer a general description with annexed details of a proposed long-range coordinated Far Eastern area training program developed [redacted]. They are being circulated to provide an opportunity to examine the program carefully prior to a later conference on the subject of all components concerned with the Far East. From that conference it is hoped a commitment to an agreed program may be reached which makes sense and has definite value to each agency component; such an agreement would then be presented to the Chief, FE, and D/TR for approval and implementation.

2. The program has been drafted with much care and incorporates many of the suggestions and criticisms received from former students and others. At the same time it is still necessary to determine if the real needs of your particular section, branch or division are recognized and met in the program, or how they can be more satisfactorily met. It would be appreciated if you scrutinize both the basic principles as well as the details of the program, and either send your comments and suggests to LAS prior to the conference or bring them with you then.

3. As the general prospectus explains, the program is based upon an integrated series of four distinct types of courses. It is hoped you will examine these, and check the individual course descriptions for content and quality. Your suggestions concerning the proposed certificate award program is also invited, since it is an integral part of the proposal to give recognition to demonstrated competence in area knowledge. Can the certificate system be improved upon, and if so how? For example, would an Intermediate Certificate make sense? Does the program provide for the necessary training to produce the desired competence in country specialization? This goal clearly rests upon the proposed Special Problems Studies, which in all likelihood will require the aid of non-Agency specialists. Does the proposal to enable individuals with desk, field or academic training to qualify for the certificates without in every case requiring class attendance satisfactorily meets the problem of those who should qualify for the certificate but can not bring themselves to enroll in "study" programs? Is the program flexible enough to meet the needs of the non country-or area-specialist?

4. Some of the details in the proposed program are also deserving of attention, such as the length of the given type of class, its seasonal scheduling, etc. Is the assumption valid that courses which meet for two-hour class sessions interrupt a working day less when scheduled for 0900-1100 or 1300-1500, than at 1000-1200 or 1430-1630?

5. It will be noted of course that the class schedule 1959/60 (Annex 2), will not be operative in the 1959 Fall term, that the new schedule if approved, will start operating in February 1960. The 1959/60 class schedule, however, shows the sequence of course offerings as they will be in the September-February term after the program gets under way and is therefore included.

6. For clarification of any point not clear in the prospectus, or for any additional information, please call extension 4437.

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List of Enclosures:

1. Long-Range Coordinated Far Eastern Area Training Program (DRAFT)
2. Annex 1. Requirements for Certificate in Country and Regional Area Studies
3. Annex 2. Class Schedules 1959/1960
4. Annex 3. Individual Course Description